

REMARKS

As previously noted, the present invention is directed to a process of preparing a continuous filament composed of nanofibers which utilizes a plurality of process steps wherein nanofiber, which is not a continuous filament but rather a short fiber, is spun onto a collector surface of water or an organic solvent where the fiber is subject to a high voltage whereby the nanofiber spun onto the surface of the water or organic solvent are subsequently pressed, drawn, dried and wound into a continuous filament.

The Examiner, on page 2 of the Advisory Action argues that the Lee et al. (US 2002/0100725) product is a continuous filament, at least to the extent that the web consists of fibers extruded from the extruder to the collector surface. However, the present invention is directed to spinning nanofiber, which is not a continuous filament but rather short fiber, onto a coagulating bath. Accordingly, Lee et al. do not describe a method of manufacturing a continuous filament from nanofiber disposed on the surface of a coagulating bath. Furthermore, as previously pointed out to the Examiner, Lee et al. are concerned with the method for the preparation of a "fiber-structured polymer web" and not a continuous filament. Consequently, there is no disclosure in the prior art reference of providing the process steps 6 to 13 as shown in Fig. 1 of the present application which, in combination with the Applicants' coagulation process are effective in producing a continuous filament composed of nanofibers as defined by the present invention. Forming a web on a plate, as defined in Lee et al., rather than spinning nanofiber onto a coagulating bath as defined by the present invention, makes it difficult for filaments to be pulled and therefore the collection of filaments is poor. Accordingly, Lee et al. do not provide for any subsequent treatments such as those defined by steps 6 to 13 as shown in Fig. 1 of the present application.

In connection with the relevancy of the Terry et al. reference (US 2,746,839), the Examiner merely states that since Terry et al. is relied upon for spinning onto the liquid surface, a discussion of the combination of Lee with Terry is considered moot. However, because the Terry process is so remote from that of Lee et al. and that of the present invention, it is believed

that a discussion concerning the relevancy of Terry is in fact pertinent to the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 USC 103. Thus, in Terry et al., filaments are not spun onto the liquid surface as suggested by the Examiner, but rather are spun into a coagulating bath to which no electrical voltage is applied. Thus, there can be no collection of nanofibers on the surface of water or an organic solvent whereby nanofibers can be collected into a continuous filament.

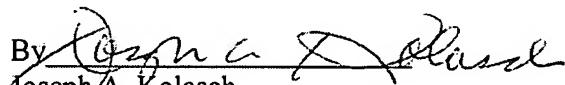
It is believed that neither Lee nor Terry, either along or in combination, suggest the Applicants' inventive contribution and accordingly reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all of the claims of the present application are respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Joseph A. Kolasch Reg. No. 22,463 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 27, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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